

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 SSM-03 MCT-01 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 /099 W

-----018198 130812Z /15

P R 130530Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4874

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 274

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3961

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG 5 - 11

REF: BEIRUT 3824 (DTG 051400Z AUG 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK, POLITICAL EDITOR OF PALESTINIAN
NEWS AGENCY Wafa enumerated changes in Security Council
Resolution 242 desired by PLO. LEVEL OF
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SHELLING INCREASED IN SOUTH LEBANON. PLO SHOWED CONCERN
THAT ISRAELIS WERE PLANNING MAJOR MILITARY MOVE IN SOUTH.
ARAB SECURITY FORCES SAID PALESTINIANS HAD HANDED OVER
125 TONS OF ARMS AS PART OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CHTAURA
AGREEMENT. KFUR FRONT LEADERS WENT TO DAMASCUS
AUGUST 12. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES GAVE LEBANON \$8
MILLION. PRESIDENT SARKIS SAID HE EXPECTED \$500 MILLION

IN AID AND LOANS OVER NEXT YEAR FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.
END SUMMARY.

2. PLO RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.

IN AUTHORITATIVE, OFFICIAL PUBLIC RESPONSE TO
PRESIDENT CARTER'S AUGUST 8 REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST, PLO
NEWS AGENCY Wafa CARRIED ARTICLE BY ITS "POLITICAL EDITOR."
AFTER MAKING ATTACK ON U.S. AND ISRAELI POSITIONS, ARTICLE
ENUMERATED CHANGES IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242
DESIRED BY PLO (SEE BEIRUT 3902).

3. INCREASED FIGHTING IN SOUTH.

LEVEL OF FIGHTING PICKED UP IN SOUTH LAST WEEK, AS
SHELLING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND CHRISTIANS INTENSIFIED
ON WIDE FRONT. EACH SIDE ACCUSED OTHER OF STARTING
FIRING.

4. PLO CONCERN ABOUT ISRAELI INTENTIONS.

PLO IS APPARENTLY CONCERNED THAT ISRAELIS ARE
PLANNING MAJOR MILITARY MOVE IN SOUTH. ON AUGUST 10,
"PALESTINIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN," AS REPORTED BY
PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY Wafa, ACCUSED ISRAELIS OF
MOVING ARMOR AND ARTILLERY NEAR BORDER AND WARNED:
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"BEGIN'S RECENT STATEMENTS REGARDING THE SOUTH,
ACCOMPANIED BY OVERT ISRAELI MILITARY MOVES, CLEARLY
AID AT IMPOSING FAIT ACCOMPLI IN THE REGION, INVOLVING
DE FACTO ISRAELI CONTROL OF LARGE PARTS OF IT." ON
AUGUST 11, ACCORDING TO Wafa, ARAFAT INFORMED ARAB
LEADERS THAT ISRAELIS WERE EVIDENTLY PREPARING "FOR
OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON."

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT:

ARAB SECURITY FORCES ISSUED COMMUNIQUE ON AUGUST 10
WHICH SAID PALESTINIANS HAD HANDED OVER 125 TONS OF ARMS
AND DEPOSITED THEM IN PRE-APPROVED "COLLECTION CENTERS,"
AS PART OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE II OF CHTAURA AGREE-
MENT. COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT: (A) MORE ARMS WOULD BE
COLLECTED UP TO AUGUST 13; (B) THE PALESTINIANS HAD
CLOSED DOWN 85 OF THEIR OFFICES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF
LEBANON; AND, (C) ALL PALESTINIAN "MILITARY MANIFESTATIONS"
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE CAMPS WOULD END BY AUGUST 14. ALTHOUGH
WEAPONS COLLECTED PROBABLY REPRESENT ONLY VERY SMALL
PORTION OF THOSE BELONGING TO PALESTINIANS, FACT THAT ANY
WERE TURNED OVER SHOWS SOME PROGRESS.

6. KFUR FRONT LEADERS IN DAMASCUS.

KFUR FRONT LEADERS CAMILLE CHAMOUN, PIERRE GEMAYEL AND SULEYMAN FRANJIE WENT TO DAMASCUS ON AUGUST 12. THEY PLAN TO DISCUSS SITUATION IN SOUTH AND SECRETARY VANCE'S MISSILE EAST TRIP WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS.

7. UAE AID TO LEBANON

ON AUGUST 8 SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HANDED PRESIDENT SARKIS CHECK FOR \$8 MILLION FOR RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LEBANON.
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L'ORIENT LE JOUR CLAIMED THAT CHECK REPRESENTED FIRST TRANCHE OF AID PACKAGE TOTALLING LL 300 MILLION (\$96 MILLION) FROM UAE, BUT PRIME MINISTER HOSS DENIED THIS REPORT.

8. SARKIS EXPECTS MORE AID.

SPEAKING TO LEBANESE INDUSTRIALISTS AND BANKERS LAST WEEKEND, PRESIDENT SARKIS SAID HE EXPECTED TO OBTAIN \$500 MILLION IN AID AND LOANS OVER THE NEXT YEAR FOR FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR. HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT NATIONAL BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM WAS DEMANDING CREDIT TERMS AS STIFF AS THOSE OF COMMERCIAL BANKS, AND REPORTEDLY PROMISED THAT BANK "WOULD EXTEND CREDIT ON EASIER TERMS."
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Message Attributes

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